

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112 is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 155-158 and 167 have been deleted without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new matter has been added.

Turning now to the Official Action, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner, at page 4 of the Official Action, that claims 131-135 137-154, and 159-166 are allowed. However, claims 155-158 and 167 are rejected under 35 USC §103 as purportedly obvious over U.S. Patent 4,710,465 to Weissman et al. in view of Lichter et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority from U.S. Application Serial No. 06/819,314, filed January 16, 1986, and U.S. Application Serial No. 06/937,793, filed December 4, 1986. Both of these applications were filed before the publication of the Lichter et al. article in December, 1988. Accordingly, the Lichter publication is properly cited as prior art against the present application. As the Examiner has conceded that the present claims are not *prima facie* obvious over the Weissman patent alone, Applicants maintain that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made out. Nevertheless, without conceding to the Examiner's arguments, but

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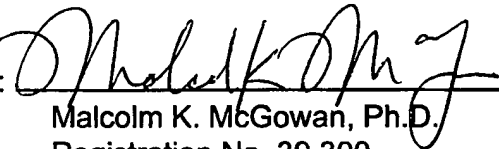
solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 155-158 and 167 have been deleted without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering this rejection moot.

From the foregoing, further and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 22, 2000

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Signature Sally Dankes Date: May 22, 2000